

means lives. If the United Nations can move more quickly, we can prevent future disasters in places like Somalia, Rwanda, and Bosnia.

There is a second lesson to be learned.

If the United States is to play a responsible role of leadership in the community of nations, some risks must be taken, and when there are regrettable casualties within our Armed Forces, we must stay our course.

Those who enlist for service in the Chicago Police Department know they will be performing a public service, but they also know they will be taking a risk. If some drug smugglers or gang leaders in a neighborhood kill two policemen, the mayor of Chicago will not announce that that area of the city will no longer have police protection because of the casualties.

Somalia illustrates our problem.

Mistakes were made, primarily by a U.S. military man put in charge of part of a U.N. mission for which he had little background. He looked for military answers to problems rather than the diplomatic answers that Ambassador Robert Oakley had adeptly been fashioning.

But when a U.S. serviceman's body was dragged through the streets by teenage thugs, when that man went to Somalia on a humanitarian mission, the American people were appalled, and there were cries in Congress to pull out all our troops immediately.

At that point, we had a new President inexperienced in international relations facing a volatile Congress. Some calming words of explanation to the American people would have been appropriate, explaining that if local terrorists can cause a few American casualties, and we flee the scene, the example will not go unnoticed by others around the world wherever American troops are stationed.

The reality is that fewer American service personnel were killed in Somalia than cabdrivers were killed in New York City that year. That does not make any of the deaths less tragic. But those who enter the Armed Forces must understand that, like the Chicago Police enlistees, they are taking additional risks. And the American people must understand this.

We are in the budget season, discussing whether or not to appropriate money for certain fancy weapons systems. What other nations question is not the technical proficiency of our weapons but our backbone. And the question is being asked, not about those who serve in the Armed Forces, but about the administration, Congress and the American people. Others look at the weakness of both the Bush and Clinton administrations in Bosnia and they wonder. A few terrorists frighten us out of Somalia, and they wonder about our professed resolve elsewhere.

When several Members of Congress issued calls to get us out of Somalia, the administration first called a meeting of all Members of both Houses at

which Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Secretary of Defense Les Aspin spoke. The meeting was a disaster. Such a large meeting on a volatile subject should never be called; the noisemakers take over.

Then the White House called a smaller meeting with about 20 of us from Congress with all the key administration people present, including the President. The lengthy meeting, held on October 7, 1993, resulted in a compromise that all U.S. troops would be pulled out by March 31. I was not happy with this, but I agreed to the compromise because it was considerably better than an immediate pull-out.

A few days after the White House meeting, President Mubarak of Egypt visited the United States, and I went to Blair House to pay a courtesy call on him. Just before I got there, an administration official asked me to urge President Mubarak to keep his Egyptian troops in Somalia after March 31. Without quoting President Mubarak directly, it is not violating any confidence to say that the request to have his nation, with its meager resources, stay in Somalia while the wealthy and powerful United States of America wanted to quietly back out, did not impress him.

We must be careful in using our human and military resources, but when we make the decision to use them—preferably in concert with other nations—we should use those resources with firmness and a reliability that other nations, friendly or unfriendly, sense.

Since U.N. efforts at peacekeeping are in our security interest, would it be asking too much for us to suggest that 1 percent of the defense budget be set aside for support of peace keeping? Far from harming our security needs, that would strengthen the ability of the United Nations to respond quickly to emergencies, and that 1 percent would not harm any defense needs that we have.

It is easy for officeholders of either party to appeal to the fears and hatreds of people, to appeal to the worst in us, to ask us to turn inward rather than reach out.

But if we are serious in our talk about family values, we should urge our citizens to reach beyond the artificial barriers that separate people; to be concerned about one another, then, all families will be more secure. Appeals to shortsighted selfishness do not help a family, and a political call for shortsighted selfishness does no favor to the nation. As leaders, we must appeal to the noble in our people, not the worst, and if we apply that to international relations, the United States will benefit, as will the rest of the world.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. ABRAHAM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, notwithstanding the previous order, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted

to speak as if in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Thank you Mr. President.

THE REMARKS OF SENATOR SIMON

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to say that I hope other Members will have the chance to read what the distinguished Senator from Illinois has offered us today. I gather he will be making a series of such speeches in the days ahead. As always, his remarks are insightful and thoughtful. I am glad I had the opportunity to hear him today.

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S DISTURBING REMARK

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to call attention to a statement made by President Clinton's chief spokesperson Michael McCurry, as reported in the March 22 Washington Times.

In discussing the Republican Presidential field and candidate Pat Buchanan in particular, Mr. McCurry said: "Mr. Buchanan and his mutaween will be out there parading across America, and we can track them down."

Mr. McCurry's reference is to Saudi religious officers, to whom I gather he is equating American conservatives who are both religious and interested in playing a role in politics.

With this statement, Mr. McCurry has managed no mean feat: he has slurred religious Americans, he has slurred individuals of Arab descent, and he has misused his position as White House spokesman.

Mr. President, I believe it is wrong to attack those who are religious and involved in politics as zealots and extremists. These attacks are unfair, divisive and destructive. They challenge the right to engage in important moral arguments in public life, to everyone's detriment.

People of strong faith always have been involved in politics and their faith has influenced their political action—to America's benefit.

Even before our Nation was founded, people of faith brought Americans together through their eloquent advocacy of religious, moral and political principles. During the Revolutionary War ministers used political sermons to expound and elaborate on Thomas Jefferson's famous words in the Declaration of Independence—that all men are created equal and "endowed by their creator" with rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They told Americans that it was their religious as well as political duty to protect their rights and the rights of their children and grandchildren by fighting for independence.

These brave ministers established an American political and religious tradition that continued to thrive, through the Civil War and on into this century.